

August 6, 1996

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**FROM:** S. A. Moon

**SUBJECT:** Deputy Secretary's Focus Report

The following is a brief summary of Department of Transportation events and items of interest from the past month:

**OPERATIONAL ITEMS:**

**FIRST TDM ACTION STRATEGY EXPECTED**

Working closely with the Puget Sound Regional Council, staff of the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Resource Center at OUM is leading an effort that will result in the first TDM Action Strategy for the central Puget Sound region. PSRC's Metropolitan Transportation Plan, like the state's Transportation Plan, includes a heavy reliance on TDM to accommodate growth in trips. It is hoped that development of the action strategy will lead towards a prioritizing of projects for funding that is consistent with adopted plans and policies.

**EIGHT-MILE HOV LANE OPENS ON I-5**

An eight-mile HOV lane opened to traffic in July on northbound Interstate 5 near Lynnwood. The new HOV lane extends the existing HOV lane to the Interstate 405 interchange through this heavily congested section of I-5. Crews, however, must still occasionally close the new HOV lane and shoulder between 220th Street Southwest and 44th Avenue West during the day for construction work. The HOV lane is open during the evening peak period from 2:30 - 7:00 p.m.

**STATE ROUTE 20 REALIGNED NORTH OF OAK HARBOR**

On July 31, construction crews opened 2,000 feet of newly constructed lanes of State Route 20 near Troxel Road north of Oak Harbor. Both eastbound and westbound lanes were shifted onto the new alignment, which eliminates a sharp curve at that location. This change increases roadway safety by improving sight distance for motorists. The old roadway will be closed with barricades and later demolished.

### **ESCAPE LANE FOR TRUCKS COMPLETED**

The truck escape lane project for trucks having difficulty stopping on westbound US 2 near Orondo is completed. The grade of US 2 is 6 percent for five miles down Pine Canyon. Trucks hauling grain and other supplies down the grade often have difficulty stopping as they come down the canyon. The escape lane provides a safe exit for trucks thus avoiding their ending up in the Columbia River. This project was completed with competitive Surface Transportation Program Rural (STPR) funds allocated through Douglas County.

### **WSDOT TO PAY SALES TAX ON MATERIALS ON HAND**

Department members met with representatives of the Department of Revenue (DOR) on July 24. Also represented at the meeting were OFM, LTC, and CRAB. DOR has determined that our department must pay sales tax when we pay our contractors for materials on hand. This change will have a large impact in the areas of computer system changes, contract administration, contract audits, and contractor relations. Dialog is ongoing, and we will continue to try to mitigate impacts as much as possible.

### **JUNE 1996 BIDS OPEN**

June 1996 bids were opened on nine preservation projects for a total of nine new contracts. The total engineer's estimate was \$54,341,472, with total bids of \$53,035,151, or 2.40 percent below the estimate. There were 310 uncompleted contracts, with a total work-in-progress dollar value of \$1,346,582,099.88.

### **LIQUID DEICERS UNDERGO ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATIONS**

The Maintenance and Environmental Service Branch staff met with snow and deicing Department of Transportation staff from Oregon, Idaho and Montana to develop specifications for liquid deicers and to develop environmental protocols for the use of deicers for the four states. WSDOT is taking the lead in this effort.

Secretary Morrison and Bruce McRay, Assistant Deputy Minister of Employment and Investment for the Province of British Columbia chaired a Transportation Summit in Port Angeles on July 22. Issues that were discussed focused upon how to better coordinate what each jurisdiction does to solve transportation issues of this growing region. Representatives from the Governor's Office; WSDOT WSF Division; WSDOT Northwest Region; WSDOT Rail and their counterparts in BC Ferries; BC Transit; and the Ministry of Employment and Investment (rail) shared information on their programs.

In the area of rail, the Province committed to performing the investment study this fall that is necessary before it can make a determination as to its financial participation in developing the Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor. Infrastructure needs in Canada include two very costly alternative

alignments that would need to be constructed, and the benefits of this investment have not been analyzed. A determination on Provincial partnership is anticipated concurrent with the 1997 Legislative session.

The memorandum of agreement for cooperative development of the rail corridor between Governor Lowry and Premier Harcourt will be refined in the near future.

#### **VEHICLES REASSIGNED TO NON-PROFIT AGENCIES**

The Public Transportation Office has recovered a total of seven vehicles turned back to the Department by Transcare, a private non-profit agency located in East Wenatchee. These vehicles were purchased with Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 funding and will be re-assigned to other private non-profit agencies who do specialized transportation. Preference will be given to agencies in Chelan, Douglas, and neighboring counties. The Public Transportation Office has reviewed the requests and has conditionally approved requests from the agencies, reassigning five of the seven vehicles available. The approved agencies include: Wenatchee Valley Senior Center, Ephrata Senior Center, and Okanogan County Senior Citizens Association. Each of these agencies provide a wide range of transportation services to elderly and/or disabled persons.

#### **OPERATION LIFESAVER PROGRAM GAINS MEDIA ATTENTION**

Approximately one month ago, a Rail Office staff member initiated a summer safety campaign in cooperation with the previous United States Department of Transportation national campaign "Always Expect a Train." This resulted in a one-page article on the front page of the Communities section of the Olympian newspaper, equivalent of an approximate \$2,000 ad.

This campaign effort also resulted in a free advertising spot in the Small Business Journal, and a large quarter-page ad in the Spokesman-Review in the movie/entertainment section. These ads were the equivalent of an approximately \$3,000 advertising spot.

The purpose of targeting the print media is to educate the communities about the dangers of trespassing and the importance of the train warning devices.

#### **WSDOT INVOLVED IN U. OF NORTH CAROLINA'S RESEARCH**

The University of North Carolina's Highway Safety Research Center has been awarded a \$5 million dollar grant from FHWA to research pedestrian issues. WSDOT, which had been ready to measure before and after construction of pedestrian facilities on state routes, will now be part of this research. Charles Zegeer, P.E. will work with Highways and Local Roadways staff. He will retain a local firm to collect pedestrian trip numbers on state routes at locations where pedestrian facilities are scheduled to be constructed by either WSDOT or a local agency. After the facilities are constructed, the number of pedestrian trips will again be measured to determine if, when facilities are constructed, pedestrian trips do increase.

### **WSDOT CO-HOSTS WORKSHOPS FOR CITIZENS**

Evening workshops were hosted by WSDOT Northwest Region and National Park Service for concerned citizens along the SR 20 corridor from Twisp to Sedro Woolley during the week of July 29 - August 1. The purpose of the four workshops was to provide residents of the communities along the corridor with an opportunity to create and develop the story of the North Cascades Corridor along with a plan to guide the corridor's future by developing a Corridor Management Plan. Funding to develop this plan has been provided by an FHWA National Scenic Byways grant.

### **SR 395 SOUTH PROJECTS COME TO COMPLETION**

Nearly 100 people attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony on July 30th commemorating the final SR 395 South project completion. The final ramp of the SR 395/Interstate 90 Interchange was opened to traffic after the festivities. Commissioner Tompkins read a special message from President Clinton congratulating the Eastern Region's "Team 395" for a job well done over the last four and a half years.

### **WSDOT INVOLVED IN SPORTS/RECREATION STUDY**

The Southwest Region is contributing to a University of Oregon project entitled "Adventure Sports and Recreation in the Columbia River Gorge". The Gorge Games, held for the first time this July, provide the opportunity to assess the needs and reaction of participants and spectators. In 1990 windsurfing alone attracted an estimated 10,000 participants from 38 states and four European countries. WSDOT will contribute \$4,000 towards the \$21,000 research project which will measure the economic impact of adventure sports (windsurfing, mountain biking, trail running, snowboarding, etc.) in the Gorge, and evaluate the impact on public services and local governments. State Route 14 is the route through the Gorge on the Washington side of the river. The Southwest Region and planning partners expect this project will contribute to the on-going planning efforts in this scenic corridor.

### **INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC ON SR 16/TACOMA NARROWS**

The collaborative process for the Major Investment Study (MIS) in the SR 16/Tacoma Narrows corridor is underway. Agencies and jurisdictions have been invited to participate in the Stakeholders Committee, which will meet monthly during the study. The first meeting is August 15 to discuss the purpose and need statement, evaluation criteria and initial alternative solutions. Legal notices announcing the MIS public involvement plan were placed in both general circulation and community newspapers and local officials are being briefed by the consultant team. Public meetings are being arranged in five different geographic locations and will be held in late August/early September. A toll free public information number has been set up for the project and will become operational in the next few weeks. A project information office is being established in the corridor as well as a newsletter, brochure, and fact sheet.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN PARK & RIDE MEETINGS MINIMAL**

The first round of public meetings were held in Issaquah, Shoreline, Tukwila, Federal Way, Bellevue and Bothell to discuss the park and ride project and solicit public comments on issues relating to parking fees, security, design and other issues relating to each site. Attendance at the meetings was light with only 35 people attending, despite the fact that notices were mailed to over 7,000 people who utilize the facilities, news releases went out to the media, advertisements were placed in local papers, and notices were distributed at each park and ride site in the vicinity. The issue of low turnout was raised to the Local Involvement Committee, which provided suggestions on increasing participation in the next round of public meetings which will be held in the fall, when each site analysis has been completed.

### **STAMPEDE PASS CONTINUES TO HOLD**

Transportation Economic Partnerships (TEP) staff continue to monitor developments affecting the resumption of rail service over Stampede Pass. In mid-July, the City of Kent requested a formal decision by the federal Surface Transportation Board (STB) on whether King County has the authority to require permits for repair and upgrade work on the Stampede Pass line. An informal opinion written by STB staff in June stated that federal law pre-empts King County review and permitting of repair and upgrade activities by Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) on its rail line. In late July, the City of Auburn formally appealed the issuance by Kittitas County of a Determination of Non-Significance for a Conditional Use Permit for BNSF's construction of a maintenance facility at the east portal of the Stampede Pass tunnel. If Kittitas County proceeds to issue the permit, the City of Auburn could appeal the county's decision to the state courts.

### **FIRST PHASE OF "FAST" STUDY NEARING COMPLETION**

TEP staff, in coordination with Public Transportation and Rail staff, helped Office of Urban Mobility (OUM) personnel complete the scope of work for the Freight Access Strategy for Seattle-Tacoma Corridor (FAST) study. Budgets were also developed for consultant work under the direction of OUM. The first phase of the project is scheduled for completion by late October in order to provide guidance to the Puget Sound Regional Council and WSDOT on potential freight projects for the 1997 Legislative Session.

### **SR 16 SUBJECT OF COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

State Route 16 was the focus of two community meetings held this month. On July 22, Senator Bob Oke sponsored a meeting in response to citizens concerns about safety at the Burley-Olalla intersection with SR 16. These concerns were brought before the Commission during its June meeting in Bremerton. Discussions at the Olalla meeting centered around interim measures to improve the sight distance and safety of the at-grade intersection until funding for an interchange becomes available. Citizens were opposed to closing the SR 16 median crossing as a possible safety solution. WSDOT agreed to make some short-term improvements such as added signing, rumble buttons, speed limit changes and turn lane improvements at the intersection.

### **SOUTH DUPONT INTERCHANGE BIDS BEING SOUGHT**

Advertisement for contractor bids on the new Interstate 5 South DuPont Interchange (Exit 118) went out on July 22, just over eleven months from the first day of work on the project. Bids are scheduled to be opened August 29, and, providing they are within available funding, work would commence as soon as possible. The new interchange, which will serve Weyerhaeuser's Northwest Landing and Intel's new research facility, is scheduled to be open to traffic by fall 1997.

### **WORKSHOP ISSUES ADDRESSED BY CERTIFICATION EXPERTS**

A Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Certification Program Workshop presented by the Office of Minority & Womens' Business Enterprises (OMWBE) and WSDOT was held on July 18. The workshop was supported by USDOT and Antonio J. Califa, Chief USDOT Civil Rights Office, gave the opening address. A panel of certification experts consisting of representatives from the DBE Certification/Appeals Branch, Equal Opportunity Specialists, and DBE Specialists addressed topics concerning regulations, sanctions, appeals, eligibility standards, third party complaints, and documentation.

### **REPORT REFLECTS ATTAINMENT OF DBE GOAL**

The FHWA Third Quarter DBE Report reflected that the DBE Attainment for this period was 16.73 as compared to a goal of 16%. The report includes Contract Award and DBE Attainment for Construction, Consultants and TranAid projects.

### **AVIATION STAFF HOST BOOTH AT "FLY-IN"**

Aviation Division staff participated in the Arlington Fly-in by hosting a booth. It provided an opportunity to meet the constituency as well as distribute Aviation Division material. The Arlington Fly-in is sponsored by the Experimental Aircraft Association and is the largest fly-in in the Western United States.

### **FORKS AIRPORT THE FOCUS OF MANY DEVELOPMENTAL PROPOSALS**

The City of Forks is presently undergoing an Airport Master Plan study regarding the Forks Airport. The consultant has raised the notion of utilizing the State owned Quillayute Airport should commercial air service of any sort come to the peninsula. Presently the Forks airport is too small. The Aviation Division is presently working a lease agreement with the WACO Aircraft Company to use a portion of the airport for manufacturing a kit airplane. Likewise, State Parks is interested in developing a "fly-in" campground. In an effort to coordinate all these various interests, the Aviation Division has requested that all parties meet to coordinate the various development interests. The Quillayute Tribe, while expressing a keen interest in participating, did not attend the meeting even though they were invited. The next meeting will be to bring together the development proposals.

### **DESKTOP SERVICES TO UPDATE E-MAIL**

Desktop services is in the planning stages for updating the current e-mail system to a new version called Microsoft Exchange or better known as Exchange. The new system corrects a number of customer and infrastructure problems. Some of the customer problems corrected are the user ID with no name, bulk mail distributions, personal address list errors and inconsistencies in the way attachments are opened. Improvements include the ability to handle greater volumes of messages, a more simple structure with improved reliability and less support by staff in regions and service centers.

Current efforts in the planning stages are focusing on customer impact and how to migrate over 4,000 customers with minimal disruptions. Planning sessions are being held this summer to detail needs for support staff and customers. The first customers to be on the updated version are currently planned for October of this year.

### **COLLECTION EFFORT NETS \$4.3 MILLION**

The Local Accounts Receivable Group is looking at ways to collect outstanding accounts receivables from local agencies. To begin the collection effort, the group developed a form letter to send to the local agencies to inform them of their past due amounts. TransAid and the Comptroller's Office are researching the outstanding receivables and preparing letters as appropriate. As a forerunner to these letters, Wayne Gruen of TransAid sent a letter to the local agencies informing them of this collection effort. The letter invites the local agencies to contact us with any questions they have regarding the outstanding amounts.

So far 20 local agencies have been sent letters. These letters amount to approximately \$4.3 million of past due receivables. Approximately half of the agencies have responded. Many are requesting additional information to support the billing and once provided are promising payment in the next billing cycle. This effort will be ongoing and procedures are being developed to notify the local agencies of past due receivables on a more timely basis.

### **WSF CONTINUES WITH VESSEL PROJECTS**

M.V. ELWHA - On Thursday, July 25, 1996, the M.V. ELWHA, operating on the Anacortes to Sidney, B.C route, ran aground just south of Cattle Point, San Juan Island. Inspection of the hull showed indications of ground contact, but no significant damage. Investigations into the incident by both Washington State Ferries and the Coast Guard are continuing.

JUMBO MARK II PROJECT - 82 units erected on launchways. Launch is scheduled for August 29th.

STEEL ELECTRIC CLASS - Propulsion Control Procurement (ILLAHEE, QUINAULT, NISQUALLY). Contract has been awarded to Siemens. Siemens commencing engineering.

PASSENGER-ONLY FERRY - Technical negotiations completed and final Technical Specification issued. Answering proposer's questions in preparation for final proposals due in August.

M.V. CHELAN - Movable second deck installation and SOLAS upgrade will be advertised next month.

#### **WSDOT MAP USED DURING WTTN STUDY**

WSDOT continued participation in the pooled fund study by preparing a map of high priority freight corridors in the state for use in the study. This information will be used at a meeting of the Western Trade & Transportation Network (WTTN) members states (14 member states ) August 19 and 20 in Tacoma. The meeting is to discuss information from the member states participation in Phase 2 of the study.

#### **WSDOT FINDS FAME IN RECYCLING**

A six-page article describing the history of recycling in WSDOT appears in the May-June issue of TR News, the bimonthly publication from the Transportation Research Board (TRB). Keith W. Anderson, Research Specialist, was the author of the article. This particular issue of TR News was dedicated to the recycling and reuse of waste and by-product materials in highway construction. Four other states were also represented by articles describing their experiences with the use of recycled materials in construction.

### **QUALITY ITEMS:**

#### **SURPLUS PROPERTY REVIEW PROCESS GETTING "QUALITY TOUCH"**

In cooperation with Region personnel, Olympia Service Center's Environmental Affairs, Real Estate Services, and Design Office Access Unit will be participating on a quality team, examining the surplus property review process. The goal is to speed up the review process, while maintaining necessary input from affected WSDOT units and to improve communication between the Regions and the Olympia Service Center on conditions of property disposal.

#### **DWI VICTIM MEMORIAL SIGNS PROGRAM REMAINS STRONG**

Almost two and one half years have passed since the first signs were installed near Walla Walla. There are now 37 sites around the state, 25 in Western Washington and 12 in Eastern Washington. The program remains enthusiastically supported by the public to the extent that some of our local agencies such as Lewis County and the City of Seattle have similar programs. Nationally, Oregon now has a pilot program in place on selected state highways and California is considering a program. Although it's still too early to determine the program's success from the traffic engineering



perspective, from the "people" perspective this program continues to be highly successful.

#### **SAFETY VEST MAY ALTER IN THE NAME OF QUALITY**

The Safety Office conducted a survey of Regional Construction and Maintenance Engineers and Safety Officers for information regarding satisfaction with the WSDOT Traffic Safety Vest on state contract. The contract is coming due for renewal. We are currently reviewing survey responses to determine whether to maintain or modify the current vest and renew or adjust the contract as necessary. The initial response suggests the need for changes to the vest to increase visibility and durability.

#### **EASTERN REGION QUALITY TEAMS FORMED**

The Eastern Region Quality Steering Committee reviewed a number of process improvement proposals from employees during the July meeting. Five proposals were selected to have formal Process Improvement Teams formed. Two others are under consideration.

#### **WAC DISCUSSION FOCUSES ON IMPROVEMENT**

Audit Office staff met with representatives from the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development to discuss the Washington Administrative Code (WAC), for WSDOT that addresses the prequalification of construction firms. As written, the WAC essentially prevents firms which are Employee Stock Ownership Plan organizations from meeting the requirements to become qualified to bid on WSDOT projects. Discussion focused on possible solutions surrounding the current WAC and what might be done to address this issue.

#### **DOCUMENT MAY REDUCE AUDIT FINDINGS**

A document was developed which could be attached to signed contracts to alert consultants to general record keeping and cost requirements that most WSDOT agreements require. The hope is, that at the time of the signing of the contract, both WSDOT management and the firm's representatives will notice the document, and pass it on to those who administer the contract, thus reducing the number of audit findings which have historically occurred.

#### **TRAINING FOR PUBLIC/PRIVATE GROUPS MAY BE AVAILABLE**

Work continued with the Consulting Engineers Council of Washington to establish low cost, high impact, training courses to both public and private organizations regarding the audit process and federal/state requirements.

#### **FIDUCIARY FUND GOES TO LEGISLATION**

During May and June several members of the Comptroller's staff met with representatives from the Office of Financial Management (OFM), Legislative Transportation Committee (LTC), and Office of State Treasurer (OST) to complete a study on the feasibility of implementing a fiduciary fund for DOT's 100 percent reimbursable activities. The task force concluded that implementation of a new fund is feasible, provided legislation is passed to allow the creation of the fund. Draft legislation was prepared based on the

group consensus and included in the study response forwarded to the Governor and the LTC. If legislation passes, the new fund would be non-budgeted and non-appropriated, but would be fully disclosed in the state's accounting system.

#### **WSF RECEIVES HONORS FOR QUALITY**

WSF TQM Pilot Team, (Purchasing/Payable Review) was asked to submit a team recognition application entitled the "1996 Excellence in Quality Achievement, Chairman's Trailblazer Award". This application for recognition is offered to all state transportation agencies to honor the trailblazers of team activities. The AASHTO Standing Committee on Quality announced this as their first implementation of a recognition award. All teams nominated will be recognized at the annual Steering Committee meeting to be held in October in Frankfort, Kentucky.

#### **WSF TO MAKE PRESENTATION DURING QUALITY TEAM DAY**

The Washington State public sector employees are sponsoring the first quality team day on October 25th. In July, the coordinators of the event requested the WSF Pilot Team to give a presentation. The event is entitled, "Celebrating Service Quality", and will be held in Tumwater at the Tyee Hotel. The WSF team has presented their story several times over this last year to national and state Quality Conferences, and will share their lessons learned and successes achieved.

#### **GOOD NEWS ITEMS:**

##### **NEW FACILITIES EITHER UNDER DESIGN OR COMPLETED & OCCUPIED**

North Central Region's new Okanogan Area HQ maintenance facility is on-line and Area 3 staff have completed moving into the new building. Eastern Region's new section facility at Wilbur is completed and occupied. Northwest Region's new Bellingham Area HQ which includes collocation with the WSP is under construction and will see completion next summer.

New facilities designs are underway for Southwest Chehalis Area HQ which includes a collocation with DNR and a new Section facility for Woodland, both are on schedule and will see occupancy by the end of next summer.

##### **TALGO AGREEMENT SIGNED & DELIVERY DATES SET**

On July 15, WSDOT and Renfe Talgo of America signed an agreement for the lease of two Talgo trainsets and the purchase of two custom built Talgo trainsets. The new trainsets will be delivered in March, 1998, and seat a total of 251 passengers. The trains will have a custom class 2-and-1 seating arrangement in two cars and coach class 2-and-2 seating in eight cars. The trains will be similar to the two trains WSDOT is leasing in the interim period before delivery and feature a bistro car and a dining car. Both the leased and purchased trainsets are accessible to the disabled.

On July 29, Amtrak signed an agreement for the purchase of one Talgo trainset to be based here in the Pacific Northwest. This train will be identical to the two WSDOT trainsets.

#### **PEDESTRIAN SAFETY CONFERENCE RECEIVES NATIONAL HONOR**

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Director Ricardo Martinez, M.D. wrote John Moffat, Director of the Washington Traffic Safety Commission, "It gives me great pleasure to inform you that your state's Annual Pedestrian Safety Conference, has been selected as one of 10 national recipients of the 1996 NHTSA Administrator's Highway Safety Program of Excellence Award." This national honor comes as WSDOT is finalizing this year's conference program, as part of the coordinating committee, to be held at the Seattle Center in October.

#### **FOCUS GROUPS LOOK AT ISTE**

WSDOT's Kathleen Davis participated in two USDOT Focus Groups -- one in Los Angeles on the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ) and the other on the Surface Transportation Program (STP) in Boise, Idaho. Davis and a representative from CalTrans (California's Transportation Department) were the only participants in a group of 15 at the Los Angeles meeting who supported WSDOT's position on eliminating CMAQ as a separate, unique program but retaining its eligibility under the STP. At the Idaho meeting, the Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho Departments of Transportation all supported WSDOT's position on streamlining the STP, eliminating all set-asides and mandates.

Over 80 focus groups across the nation are being held to get a "snapshot" of the different elements of ISTE and their effectiveness. The focus groups are not formal hearings, but brainstorming forums of 15 - 20 individuals with diverse backgrounds who have technical knowledge in a topic area. Participants include industry partners, representatives from MPO's, state and local governments, citizen activist groups and environmental groups. Feedback from each focus group will be compiled and summarized and will be used to help shape the Administration's reauthorization proposal.

#### **T2 CENTER BREAKS ROAD SHOW RECORD**

The number of Spring 1996 Road Shows held has exceeded *all* previous records. Eighty sessions by trainer John Easley were well received by over 800 people in 87 agencies. John traveled over 11,000 miles in just four months to provide local agencies and Indian nations informal training on numerous subjects from the T2 repository of over 350 videos. Overall, 95% of his ratings were good or better.

#### **ST. HELENS LEARNING CENTER OVERFLOWING WITH VISITORS**

The Forest Learning Center at Mount St. Helens, a public-private partnership between WSDOT, Weyerhaeuser Company, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation on SR-504, continues to draw visitors. Between the May 18th opening this year and July 15th, there have been 95,772 visitors. This includes 68 different schools and over 3,000 students.

**RETIREMENT INCENTIVE REDUCING FTE'S**

Earlier this year the Department offered a retirement incentive to 25 employees in our engineering program. Fifteen of them accepted and eleven subsequently retired. The remaining four are set to retire on September 30, 1996. Additionally the Southwest Region hired four college students into the Governor's Intern Program this summer. By doing this we reduced our FTE count by that number.

**WSDOT STAFF ELECTED TO NSC EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Jan Myhr was elected to the Executive Board of the National Safety Council where she will serve in this capacity for a period of three years. The National Safety Council is a nonprofit, nongovernmental, international public service organization dedicated to improving the safety, health and environmental well-being of all people. The Board and its officers and committees, aided by some 2,000 more volunteers, determine policies, operating procedures and programs to be developed and carried out by the Council's 300-plus professional staff. Board members represent business, labor, chapters, government, community groups, trade and professional associations, schools, and individuals.

Myhr is the Data Operations Branch Manager for the Transportation Data Office with the Planning and Programming Service Center. She has worked for the department for approximately 18 years in various capacities, starting out in the Management Information Systems Office.